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For the use of soaproots in bathing and laundering see MA1 Iran, 35: Hooper and Field, category 515, pp. 79 and 123-124.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

fully capable of meeting all of the requirements of domestic consumption with the possible exception of minor items of a special nature. The plant's present capacity is 500,000 meters of cloth and 50,000 kilos of yarn. Recent improvements and expansion have brought the woolen textile industry abreast of the needs of the country.

Leather

Until recent years, there was little modern tanning of hides, most of the hides being exported. Since the war, however, several tanneries have been constructed and are now producing leather of fair quality sufficient for most of Iraq's needs, with the exception of those grades required to make the higher quality shoes.

Tanneries are not showing the profits which were originally anticipated, largely because they have to use hides of very poor quality. In many cases, the hides have been cut during flaying, while in other cases they have not been well preserved. The tanneries also have not attempted to make use of waste products and in some cases do not split the hides, a practice which is essential to low cost production. However, once these various technical problems have been solved, the tanneries should be able to meet all of Iraq's needs.

Shoes

Nearly 90 percent of Iraq's shoes are made by hand in numerous small home industries. There is one fairly modern factory, however, which, using both local and imported leather, now makes over 30,000 pairs of high grade shoes per year. The company has also set up retail outlets in all of the provinces. An increase in the capacity of this plant would do much to reduce shoe prices to the ultimate consumer. Annual production could be raised to 100,000 pairs by the procurement of additional equipment costing approximately ID 50,000, of which ID 45,000 would be in foreign exchange, mostly in Swiss francs. These facilities could be put into operation within two years and would increase employment from approximately 40 to 120 workers.

Vegetable Oil and Soap

A vegetable oil extraction plant has been in successful operation for approximately three years. It is designed to extract oil

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

388 from the seeds of agricultural crops such as cotton, sesame and linseed. The linseed oil is blended and used in the making of paint, while the sesame and cotton seed oils are purified and distilled into light and heavy fractions, the light fractions being used as an edible oil, while the heavier are retained for soap-making. Although the expellers have a combined capacity of 20 tons of seed per day, the plant fails to satisfy present needs. Capacity should be increased by the installation of two additional mechanical expellers and a single solvent extraction unit to serve the entire plant. A washing plant should be installed for the purpose of reducing maintenance on the expellers. In addition to extending the capacity of the present facilities, new equipment is needed for the hydrogenation of oil for cooking fats.

Operating in conjunction with the oil plant is a soap plant with a capacity of 7.5 tons of laundry soap and 2.5 tons of toilet soap per day. This is estimated to be less than one third of present requirements. These facilities should be increased to take care of at least one half of the country's needs.

In all, the expansion program would cost an estimated ID 600,000, including ID 500,000 in foreign exchange, mostly in pounds sterling. It would probably require approximately two years before all of the facilities could be put into operation. Employment would be increased by approximately 60 workers.

Cement

331 Iraq's new cement plant is one of the more important projects sponsored by the Industrial Bank. The market for cement is expanding at a rapid rate and is well beyond the present plant's capacity of 220 tons per day. Additional equipment now scheduled for operation in 1952 will double the plant's output. Even so, production will fall short of domestic requirements. The larger plant should, however, reduce production costs and the cheaper cement should in turn open up many new markets in the construction and transport fields.

Brick and Tile

Brick is the prime building material. Over 30 private factories are engaged in the manufacture of bricks, and even though most of the plants are very antiquated, production costs are very rea-

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other commodities. As might be expected in such a situation, the system of classification is limited. The cotton is usually sold on types. Ginners indicate they will buy and sell cotton themselves in the future as in many other countries. 442

The one large cotton spinning mill is putting in its own gin to supply the mill with its requirements of around 15,000 bales annually. This will restrict merchandising to exports unless and until another mill is built.

OIL MILLS 388

There is one oil mill which crushes the largest part of the seed produced. The rest is exported. The capacity of this plant is to be increased and facilities for processing oil products are being added.

EXPORTS 439

Iraq has exported approximately 18,000 bales during each of the past two years, mostly to Germany and Japan, with smaller quantities to Holland, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS 248 654

The Director General of Agriculture has promulgated an ambitious 10-year program for increasing cotton production to about 500,000 bales. In time, he believes that on the basis of the available land and water Iraqi production can be boosted to more than a million bales. While admitting his program is ambitious, the Director General appears to be firmly convinced it can be accomplished, given adequate technical assistance.

United States agricultural experts with the Point Four Program are inclined to agree that the country's natural resources can support a potential cotton production of this magnitude. The rate of increase, they think, will depend on how effectively the technical resources of the country are organized and applied.

The Director General is highly regarded for his technical as well as his administrative ability and particularly for his driving force. He is especially well qualified to direct the cotton improvement program, having graduated in cotton agronomy from Texas A. & M. College.

Long-Range

For long-range improvements he is depending on the agricultural research agencies now being organized to develop better varieties, more effective irrigation and cultural practices, better insect control techniques, and improved methods of classification and marketing. Still in the planning stages, the research program has done some fairly effective work, especially on variety selection, propagation, and fertilization.

Insect Control

One of the main research problems is the control of insects. The government estimates that 75 per cent of the 1951 cotton crop was destroyed by insects, principally by the spiney bollworm, *Earis insulana* (Boisd.), a white fly that attacks the leaves, and by aphids. Fortunately, the Director said, the pink bollworm has not made its appearance in the country. Experiments are 242